

REMARKS

Claims 1-15, 17-36, and 58-65 are now pending. Applicant has cancelled claims 16 and 37-57 and amended claims 1, 17-18, 58, and 62.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 17-18, 58, and 62 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite. Applicant has amended these claims to address the Examiner's concerns.

The Examiner has rejected the pending claims as follows:

Claims	Basis	Reference
1-4, 6-11, 14-15, 17-20, 33-34	102(e)	Barrus
5	103(a)	Barrus
12-13	103(a)	Barrus and Barker
21, 28-30, 62	103(a)	Barrus and Angiulo
22-27	103(a)	Barrus and Sasaki
31-32, 36	103(a)	Barrus and Infogate
35	103(a)	Barrus and Brown
58-61	103(a)	Barrus and Trueblood
62	103(a)	Barrus and Angiulo
63	103(a)	Barrus, Angiulo, and Sasaki
64-65	103(a)	Barrus, Angiulo, Sasaki, and Greenberg

The pending claims are directed to "providing peripheral awareness of information of interest" as recited by each claim. The pending claims have been amended to recite that the peripheral awareness is provided by "a sidebar that is not coverable by other application windows such that the sidebar is always visible."

To provide effective peripheral awareness of information of interest, applicant's technique, as recited by claim 1, provides "a customizable dynamic encapsulated object" and "a thumbnail displayed" in a container as a "sidebar" that is "always visible." Although the concepts of an object, a thumbnail display, a sidebar, and an always visible window may each be found individually in the prior art, there is no

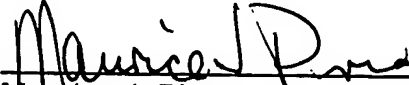
teaching, suggestion, or motivation in the prior art to combine these concepts for any purpose and certainly not for the purpose of providing peripheral awareness.

The Examiner suggests that one would be motivated to combine Trueblood's "always visible" window with Barrus's technology because it would be advantageous to allow a user "to always have selected information visible on the display screen." (Office Action, May 6, 2004, p. 11.) Applicant respectfully disagrees. The suggested modification to Barrus would result in an inoperative combination. Barrus's technology displays tabbed windows that overlap and each occupies most of the display area. (Barrus, Fig. 4C.) If one of the tabbed windows was always visible, then the other tabbed windows could never be seen and be inoperative. An inoperative combination cannot support a rejection based on the combination.

Based on the above amendments and remarks, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and its early allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (206) 359-8548.

Respectfully submitted,
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